

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

REMARKS

A. Status of the Specification

In the July 2, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention for not being descriptive and suggested that the Applicants amend the title. On page 5 of this response, Applicants have requested that the title be amended to “Electronic Device Having Pivotal Display and Stereo Speakers” as suggested by the Examiner.

B. Status of the Pending Claims and Explanation of the Amendments

Original claims 1-12 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,549,237 to Inuma et al. (“Inuma”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,495 to Kumazawa et al. (“Kumazawa”). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inuma and Kumazawa, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,739,859 to Hattori et al. (“Hattori”). Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over Inuma and Kumazawa, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,481 to Kanbara (“Kanbara”).

In this paper, however, Applicants have requested the cancellation of claims 2, 3, and 9-12 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1 and 4-8 are currently presented for examination.

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify the invention. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification and Figures. See, e.g., page 8, line 6 to page 11, line 19. Claim 8 has been amended to correct a minor grammatical error. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

C. The Cited References Fail to Teach, Disclose, or Suggest
All of the Claim Elements in Applicants Claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over Inuma in view of Kumazawa¹. Briefly, these references, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose or suggest all of the elements in Applicants' claims. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. MPEP §2143.

According to the July 2, 2004 Office Action, Inuma discloses “that a hinge shown in fig. 5 has switches along the “x” and “y” axes that detect when the panel is away from the body of the camera (y) and when the panel is rotated over 180 degrees (x)” [July 2, 2004 Office Action, page 2]. The Office Action, however, concedes that Inuma fails to disclose the use of a control unit or first and second output units for sound. For these elements, the Office Action relies on Kumazawa, which it characterizes as having “a reversing operation switch 130b to which the user can depress to flip the images on the screen as well as reverse the audio channels” (emphasis added) [July 2, 2004 Office Action, page 3].

Notwithstanding these statements in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully maintain that this combination of references does not appear to teach, disclose or suggest a “control unit” for reversing an image and a sound” as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Applicants point out that claim 1 recites that a “control unit” receives a “output signal” from a “detection member.” As noted above, however, Kumazawa's reversing operation switch 130b is operated by the user, and thus does not receive an “output signal” from a “detection member”.

¹ Applicants only address the rejections of claims 1 and 4-8 because these are the only claims presented for examination at this time. The rejections of claims 2 and 9-12 are moot in view of their cancellation by Applicants in this paper.

Applicants note that a similar analysis can be applied to independent claim 7, which is a method claim. Specifically, claim 7 recites, inter alia, that the “controlling step [automatically reverses] an image and a sound in response to a signal output in said detection step.” Applicants do not see such a controlling step in Kumazawa.

Because the combination of references fails to teach, disclose, or suggest all of the elements in Applicants’ independent claims 1 and 7, the rejection of these claims, as well as claims that depend therefrom, should be withdrawn. MPEP §2143. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

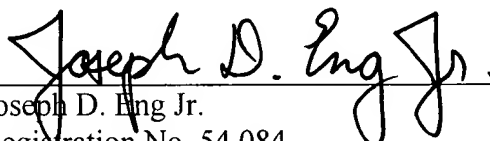
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4683. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4683. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 1, 2004

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